

'Becoming Royal' Lesson 6: The Fun Palace



Curriculum focus – History and Literacy – recount writing

Look at and discuss the picture above with the class using the Teacher's Notes. What do you think it was like living in Buckingham Palace as a child in the nineteenth century? (*Servants, governesses, tutors, drumming lessons with the army, your own pony to ride, the garden at Buckingham Palace to play in, would you always be able to see your parents?*)

When it was your birthday, you could have a party at Buckingham Palace (look at images of Buckingham Palace in the 'All Change' section)!

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The sixth birthday of Prince Leopold was celebrated in style in the new ballroom that was completed in 1856. Look at the costumes that Arthur, Leopold, Helena and Louise were wearing for the fancy-dress ball. Can you find the royal children in the painting? What are they doing? What if you had been invited to the ball?

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Decide what costume you would wear. Look closely at the painting and decide who you are going to be. Make a quick sketch of the costume.

Then you need to learn some dance steps. A waltz or a polka. Look up the dance steps in a book, online or if you have a dance teacher ask them to teach you. Ask the class to research the music that would have been listened to, such as J. Strauss and the etiquette expected of all of those attending a ball, for example, asking to have 'this dance'.

Writing Activity

Write a detailed account of the afternoon you spent at Leopold's birthday party at Buckingham Palace. Don't forget to mention what you wore, who you saw, what you ate and what the dancing was like.